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# Message Text

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43
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11 AID-05 TRSE-00 SCCT-01

ACDA-05 /081 W
---------- 077766
P R 211510Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASST TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9850
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
JIDDA 1262
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR IS LE SY
SUBJECT: PERES AND GUR ON LEBANESE SITUATION

1. IN CAREFULLY FORMULATED STATEMENTS DEFENSE MINISTER PERES AND CHIEF OF STAFF GUR JANUARY 20 STRESSED CONTINUING CLOSE SCRUTINY OF LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS,EMPHASIZING THEIR CONCERN REGARDING POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS ON LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER. PERES DECLINED PUBLIC SPECULATION ON OTHER ASPECTS OF LEBANESE CRISIS, E.G. EXTENT OF PLA INVOLVEMENT OR ROLE OF SYRIAN ARMY.

2. PERES TOLD REPORTERS ACCOMPANYING HIM THAT "IN CASE SYRIAN ARMED FORCES SHOULD INVADE LEBANON, ISRAEL WILL TAKE SUCH DEFENSIVE MEASURES AS INDICATED BY THE SITUATION CREATED ALONG THE NORTHERN BORDER WITH LEBANON." HE ADDED THAT "THE POSSIBLE ENTRY OF THE SYRIAN ARMY INTO
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LEBANON, AND THE PRESENCE THERE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF

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PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS, ARE PROBLEMS WHICH ARE
BEING FOLLOWED CLOSELY HERE, AS THEY HAVE DIRECT IMPLICATIONS
FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEBANON AMONG
THE WARRING FACTIONS WAS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR, ON WHICH
ISRAEL HAS NO WISH TO COMMENT." (GOI PRESS BULLETIN)

3. ACCORDING DYO JERUSALEM POST, PERES ADDED THAT HE
DID NOT WANT TO SPECULATE ON REPORTS THAT "THOUSANDS OF
PALESTINIANS CAME INTO LEBANON FROM SYRIA" UNTIL HE
HAD FURTHER INFORMATION.

4. CHIEF OF STAFF GUR SPEAKING IN JERUSALEM SAME
EVENING WARNED SYRIA THAT IF IT DIRECTLY INTERVENES

IN LEBANON ISRAEL WILL BE "FORCED TO REVIEW ITS POLIRDSYZM
GUR ADDED THAT SYRIA WANTS TO MAKE LEBAONON A "MILITANT
COUNTRY" AND SAID THAT " ISRAEL IS SUFFICIENTLY
STRONG TO PREVENT SYRIA FROM TAKING ANY STEP
AGAINST LEBANON WHICH WOULD ALSO MEAN A STEP AGAINST
ISRAEL."

5. COMMENT: WE NOTE OFFICIAL VERSION OF PERES' STATE-.
MENT SPECIFIES THAT INDICATOR BEING WATCHED BY ISRAELIS
IS SITUATION "ALONG THE NORTHERN BORDER WITH LEBANON".
THIS STRIKES US AS ATTEMPT BY GOVERNMENT TO FOCUS ATTENTION
OF SYRIANS ON FACT THAT CONCENTRATION OF ARAB FORCES--
INCLUDING PLA UNITS--WITHIN PROXIMITY OF ISRAELI BORDER
COULD CONSTITUTE CASUS BELLI. STATEMENT AT
SAME TIME SERVES TO REMIND APPREHENSIVE ISRAELI
PUBLIC THAT THREAT TO ISRAEL LIES IN MILITARY
FORCES ALONG ITS BORDER, AND NOT IN TRAGIC BLOOD-
BATH UNDERWAY ELSEWHERE IN LEBANON.
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# Message Attributes

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**Subject:** PERES AND GUR ON LEBANESE SITUATION
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, MPOL, IS, LE, SY, (PERES), (GUR)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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